

WYCOMBE SET FOR DOUBLE

WYCOMBE Wanderers should collect another three points this evening (Tuesday) in their bid to stay amongst the leaders at the top of the table, when they entertain struggling Hayes in their Rothmans Isthmian League Division One encounter at Loakes Park.

Hayes are really in the doldrums this season. They have not recovered — what side could? — from the shock of losing five regulars a couple of weeks before the start of the season. Add on injuries to four more players, and it is easy to see why there are only three teams below them in the table.

Bobby Hatt, a former Loakes Park favourite, who has also played for Slough, left for Wokingham at the beginning of August, and took with him John Wilks and Les Hartridge. In addition goalkeeper Ian Bath joined Kingstonian, while Kenny Kent signed on for Maidenhead United.

This left new manager Bob Ross, who played league football with Brentford, before taking over as boss of Cambridge City, with a giant sized problem. Apart from Ron Harris, whom he brought from Cambridge, Ross has relied on youth to fill the gaps left by the mass exodus.

This new team, after a slow start, began to pick up, and gained creditable victories over Sutton United and Woking. But since then, Hayes have been struck by injuries, which rule Alan Harris, John Watt, John Saunders and Mick Barnard out of tonight's game.

When the teams met at Church Road on September 10, Wycombe won 2-1 with goals from Steve Perrin and Dylan Evans. Despite the scoreline Blues won comfortably, a late goal flattering Hayes' performance.

Wycombe are unlikely to make any changes from the side, which so capably defeated Hendon 5-0 last week and which had such an easy time against Milton Keynes on Saturday. However it is just possible that Tony Horseman will replace Dylan Evans.

Hayes, who lost 4-2 to Walthamstow Avenue on Saturday, have named their probable side. It is: G. Cracknell, S. Palfrey, D. Tiernan, R. Ross, J. O'Sullivan, J. Pearce, A. Carrington, T. James, R. Butler, P. Twigg, P. Hatt. Sub: P. Rushbrook.

Wycombe, who were due to visit Hitchin on Saturday, will instead travel to Dulwich Hamlet, as Hitchin are otherwise engaged.